

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-21 stand rejected. Portion of the specification and the drawings are objected.

In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, and 20 have been amended. Portions of the specification have been amended. Formal drawings have been submitted. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the alleged Applicant's admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,510,777 of Pilc et al. ("Pilc"). Claims 3, 5-6, 17-18, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the alleged admitted prior art in view of Pilc and U.S. Patent No. 5,689,563 of Brown et al. ("Brown"). Claims 4 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the alleged admitted prior art in view of Pilc, Brown, and U.S. Patent No. 5,475,735 of Williams et al. ("Williams"). Claims 7-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Pilc. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Pilc in view of Williams.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-21 include limitations that are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites:

1. A method for establishing secured roaming among a wireless station, a first and a second access points, comprising:
the first access point requesting a first ticket from an authentication server and using the first ticket to establish a first secured session with the wireless station; and
in response to a second ticket request from the wireless station through the first secured session, the first access point forwarding the second ticket request to the authentication server and relaying a resulting second ticket from the authentication server to the wireless station.
(emphasis added)

Applicant submits that independent claim 1 includes a first access point requesting a first ticket from an authentication server and using the first ticket to establish a first secure session with a

wireless station. In response to a request for a second ticket from the wireless station, the first access point forwards the request to the authentication server and relays the requested second ticket received from the authentication server back to the wireless station. The second ticket may be used by the wireless station to establish a second secure session with a second access point as claimed by claim 2. Applicant respectfully submits that the above limitations are absent from the cited references, individually or in combination.

Rather, Pilc relates to a wired telephone system that authenticates an end station based on its telephone number and the number being dialed, which is unrelated to a wireless network, particularly, a wireless local area network (WLAN). Specifically, the Examiner stated:

“Pilc teaches the first LEC (Local Exchange Control, fig. 1) requesting a first ticket from an SCP (Security Control Point, 134-1) and using the first ticket to establish a first secured session with the wire line station 102; and in response to a second ticket request from the wire line station 102 through the first secured session, the first LEC 106 forwarding the second ticket request to the SCP 134-1 and relaying a resulting second ticket from the SCP-134-1 to the wire line station (col. 5, lines 61 through col. 7, line 21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Pilc to the admitted prior art in order to grant access to each associated individual can be made further dependent upon a recognition of which of the individuals they are and a profile specifically associated with that individual.”

(10/8/2003 Office Action, page 4, emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that the LEC is not an access point, particularly, an access point in a WLAN. In a wireless local area network, according to SearchTechTarget.com, an access point is a station that transmits and receives data (sometimes referred to as a transceiver). An access point connects users to other users within the network and also can serve as the point of interconnection between the WLAN and a fixed wire network. Each access point can serve multiple users within a defined network area; as people move beyond the range of one access point, they are automatically handed over to the next one.

Applicant respectfully submits that the LEC is not an access point of a WLAN, or a local exchange control as suggested by the Examiner. Rather, an LEC is a local exchange carrier network, such as LEC 106, that includes switching machines, such as AT&T 5ESS® switches, for connecting a

plurality of network endpoints, such as endpoint 102, to long distance network 118. See, for example, Fig. 1, col. 3, line 40 to col. 4, line 14 of Pilc. The functionality of an LEC in Pilc is significantly different than an access point in a WLAN. In fact, an LEC of Pilc deals with a wired telephone network while an access point in a WLAN deals with a wireless connection. Applicant respectfully submits that those with ordinary skill in the art would not consider an LEC of Pilc as an access point of a WLAN. Nor would they try to replace an access point with an LEC or vice versa.

Even if, for the sake of the argument, that an LEC may be considered as an access point, the endpoints of Pilc, such as endpoint 102, are not wireless stations. Specifically, endpoint 102 is not a wireless station that can roam from one access point to another. For example, endpoint 102 has to go through LEC 106 in order to access long distance network 118. Since endpoint 102 is physically connected (via a wired connection) to LEC 106, endpoint 102 cannot roam from LEC 106 to another LEC, such as LEC 108. Applicant respectfully submits that those with ordinary skill in the art would not consider an endpoint (e.g., a telephone set) as a wireless station in a WLAN.

In addition, Applicant submits that there is no authentication ticket involved in Pilc. A ticket is a data structure that grants access of a client to a server (see, Specification, page 6 of the present application). Specifically, the section of Pilc relied upon by the Examiner (e.g., col. 5, line 61 to col. 7, line 21) fails to disclose or suggest the above limitations as claimed. Rather, a requester of endpoint 102 dials a number of a destination, such as 1-800-BANK. Switch machine 120 receives the dialed number and recognizes that the number is an 800 type number which is provided by long distance network 118. Switch machine 120 then routes the call to switch machine 128 of long distance network 118. Switch machine 128 then routes the call to an appropriate NCP 132 for credit card billing verification purposes (see, col. 5, line 61 to col. 6, line 30, Table 1). SCPs 134 may be invoked for authenticating the respective credit cards if the credit card transactions are involved (see, col. 6, line 31 to col. 7, line 5).

Applicant respectfully submits that Pilc fails to disclose or suggest a first access point requesting a first ticket from an authentication server and using the first ticket to establish a first

secure session with a wireless station. In response to a request for a second ticket from the wireless station, the first access point forwards the request to the authentication server and relays the requested second ticket received from the authentication server back to the wireless station. The second ticket may be used by the wireless station to establish a second secure session with a second access point as claimed by claim 2.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that there is no suggestion to combine Pilc with the alleged admitted prior art. Pilc relates to a wired telephone network for switching an end user to an appropriate long distance carrier network using an LEC. There is no wireless network, particularly, a wireless local area network involved in Pilc. Applicant respectfully submits that those with ordinary skill in the art would not look to Pilc to combine with the alleged admitted prior art to conceive of the present invention as claimed because there is no motivation and reasonable expectation of successes. As discussed above, an endpoint of Pilc is physically, via a wired connection, connected to an LEC. There is no need to acquire a second ticket via a secure connection (established by a first ticket) for the purposes of roaming to another LEC. Such a suggestion would only destroy the purposes of the LEC, which is designed to provide services to fixed wired clients.

Even if they were combined, Applicant respectfully submits that such a combination still lacks the above discussed limitations as claimed. Other cited references, such as Brown or Williams, also fail to disclose or suggest the above limitations as claimed for the reasons similar to those set forth above. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Similarly, independent claims 7, 13, and 15 include limitations similar to those referred by claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 13, and 15 are patentable over the cited references. Given that claims 2-6, 8-12, 14, and 16-21 depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6, 8-12, 14, and 16-21 are patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

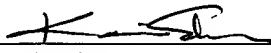
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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